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Conditionals; Other Ways to Express Unreality

1 RECOGNIZING UNREAL CONDITIONALS

Read this article from the website of a chocolate manufacturer. There are 9 unreal conditional sentences. The first one is underlined. Find and underline 8 more.

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The dictionary defines *chocoholic* as a person who has a near obsession for chocolate. The world is full of chocoholics. Yet, if an unusual sequence of events had not occurred, these people would probably never have tasted chocolate.

Chocolate was unknown outside of the Americas until the 16th century. When the Spanish arrived in Mexico in the early 1500s, they discovered that the Aztec Indians there drank a delicious, dark, foamy beverage called *chocolatl*, brewed from the beans of the native cacao plant. These cacao beans were so highly valued in the area that they were used by the natives as money in the marketplaces; a pumpkin could be bought for 4 cacao beans, for example, and a rabbit could be bought for 10. The Aztecs evidently had chocoholics as well as chocolate. Their king, Montezuma, normally drank 50 pitchers of *chocolatl* a day; it is said that when he didn't, he felt a very strong physical need for it.

The explorer Hernán Cortés wrote in a letter to the Spanish emperor Charles V that he had discovered "a divine drink . . . which builds up resistance and fights fatigue." It's a good thing for the chocolate lovers of the world that Hernán Cortés liked chocolate. If he hadn't, the delicious substance might never have crossed the ocean back to Spain with him. Chocolate soon became popular in Spain as a thick, sugared, chilled beverage and later appeared elsewhere in Europe. In mid-17th-century London, chocolate houses, like coffee houses, sprang up; however, only the aristocrats could enjoy the drink because of its high cost. If chocolate hadn't been so expensive, the common people could have enjoyed it much sooner.

Doctors of the era reported that chocolate was an effective medicine which imparted energy, among other things. When people wanted to feel stronger quickly, they could take some chocolate. Chocolate contains theobromine, a substance similar to caffeine; it is actually the theobromine which causes people to feel energized after drinking chocolate. If chocolate didn't contain theobromine, it wouldn't have the stimulating effect that it has.

Chocolate was primarily a beverage until the 1800s, when a Swiss chocolatier discovered that chocolate combined well with milk solids. If this chocolatier hadn't made that discovery, chocolate would not have evolved into its solid form. And if chocolate had not evolved into its solid form, we would not have the chocolate candy, and chocolate cakes, and chocolate cookies that we enjoy so much today.

Today, 75 percent of the world's cacao comes from Africa, and the rest comes from Central America, Ecuador, and Brazil. But, chocolate is heavily consumed in countries all over the world, in countries far from the sources of cacao. Clearly, if world trade were not so well developed, chocolate lovers worldwide would not be able to indulge themselves as easily as they can.

For all the pleasure that chocolate imparts, it does have some bad effects. It contains a lot of fats and sugar, so when people eat too much of it, they can develop or worsen conditions such as hardening of the arteries or diabetes. Doctors have been telling patients for a long time that if their fat and sugar intake were lower, they would be healthier. However, these warnings do not prevent chocoholics from consuming what they love. Says one chocoholic who partakes daily: "Quite frankly, if I had a day without chocolate, it would be like a day without sunshine."

2 RELATING UNREAL CONDITIONS TO REAL CONDITIONS

Read these sentences expressing unreal conditions. After each one, write new sentences that express the real conditions.

1. If chocolate weren't so delicious, people wouldn't crave it.

Chocolate is delicious

People crave it

2. If chocolate hadn't been brought back to Europe by the Spanish explorers, it might not be popular today.

Chocolate _____

It _____

(continued)